

REMARKS

Without acquiescence in any rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have added claims 11-17. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, for example at: paragraphs 0003 (identification of pertussis toxin and pertactin), 0007-0008 (identification of a mutant and *Bordetella* species) and 0040-0045 (construction of a mutant and the use of antisense), and 0049-0060 (construction and propagation of a mutant) and Figure 7 (gene sequence).

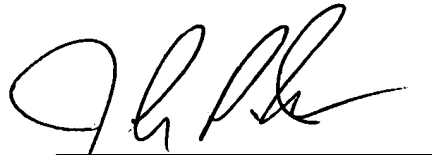
Turning first to the objections to the specification, applicants have amended paragraph 0004. With regard to the names of microorganisms, applicants submit that there are so many instances of bacteria being mentioned by genus and species names but without underlining or italicization that a substitute specification would need to be submitted to effect correction. Applicants will do so if the examiner requires it, but a change will not result in a net increase in clarity. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider the objection.

Applicants submit that the newly-presented claims are not susceptible to the section 112 rejections made by the examiner.

R q u s t

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request favorable consideration to that effect. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 912-2000 should there be any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Isacson', written over a horizontal line.

John P. Isacson
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Date

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